

# A PATH DIVIDED



DAVID WRIGHT ©

*Tennessee's Civil War  
Heritage Trail*



## **Tennessee's Civil War Heritage Trail**

This handbook offers a guide to sites in Tennessee where the Civil War experience is interpreted or memorialized. The legacy of those momentous years from 1861 to 1865 is most vividly preserved at the places where events and activities of the war actually occurred. Such sites may be on land on which one of Tennessee's 2,931 engagements was fought or may consist of fortifications, buildings, encampments or other material remains of the war. Other sites include the cemeteries of those who died in combat, monuments that commemorate their sacrifices, and museums that contain the artifacts of war. Most are open to the public, although some are on privately owned property.

Tennessee's Civil War heritage is in grave danger. These sites, like most physical remnants of our history, are fragile and vulnerable to damage. A large number are unprotected and in danger of being lost forever. We hope that this guide will help visitors to discover Tennessee's rich Civil War past and to understand better the convictions of the men and women who fought in it. Only with proper care and custodianship can these hallowed places survive to educate and inspire future generations. We cannot honor the memory of the 620,000 lives that the war cost the nation without preserving the sites where this history can still be found.

## Prologue to War

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*“Some of them will no more walk the paths of earth or be seen in the haunts of men. Some when they walk now march after the drum, with a sword or musket in the ranks of the Confederate army under the new flag...Others march under the glorious old Stars and Stripes, and they who were once united in the strongest bonds of friendship are now ready to kill each other, only waiting for the word from their leaders. God pity the poor soldiers, and forgive those who have caused all this.”*

**- Amanda McDowell Burns, Sparta, 1862**

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On the eve of the great catastrophe that engulfed the nation in 1861, Tennessee stood at the center of national affairs. Home of two

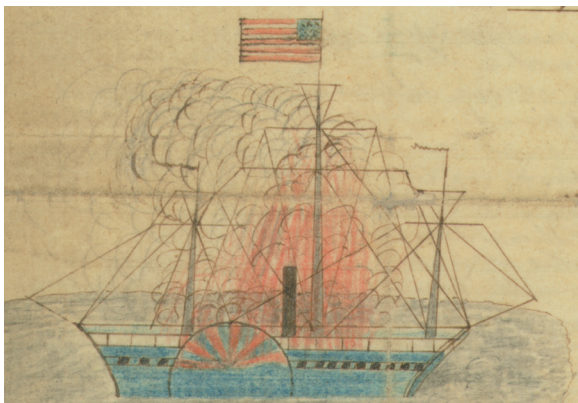


*Raford and Benjamin Ammons,  
1<sup>st</sup> TN Heavy Artillery*

presidents and a tradition of Jacksonian nationalism, Tennessee had earned the nickname “Volunteer State” in the forefront of America’s wars of expansion. It was the second most populous state in the South and furnished more

soldiers for the Confederacy than any other state except Virginia. Tennessee also furnished more men for the Union cause than all the other Southern states put together.

Considered the “breadbasket” for the Lower South, Tennessee in 1860 ranked near the top in the output of key farm commodities like corn and hogs. The state also possessed a significant portion of the South’s manufacturing capacity in the form of ironworks, munitions factories, gunpowder mills, and copper mines. Through Tennessee ran the South’s main east-west rail lines as well as the



Above and below, *sketches in letter to Louisa Brigham, Stewart County, TN, 1863*

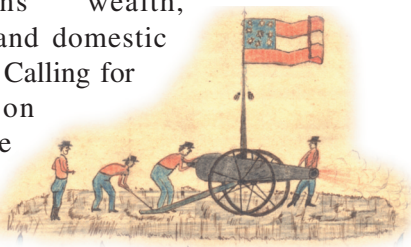
western Confederacy's principal north-south line. The heart of commerce and trade in the Upper South, Tennessee held enormous strategic importance because of her economic resources.

The state's slave population had increased at a faster rate than the general populace, going from 22.1% of the state's inhabitants in 1840 to 24.8% in 1860. The value of slave property rose considerably in the decade before the war, although the ownership of slaves remained fairly concentrated. Tennessee's pro-secession governor, Isham Harris, believed slavery to be essential to her citizens' "wealth,

prosperity and domestic happiness." Calling for

a vote on secession, he announced that the time had

come "either to abandon or to fortify and maintain [the institution of slavery]."



Political considerations dictated a leading role for Tennessee in the coming conflict. After first refusing to secede in a February referendum, Tennessee in June, 1861, became the last state to join the Confederacy. Like Kentucky, another



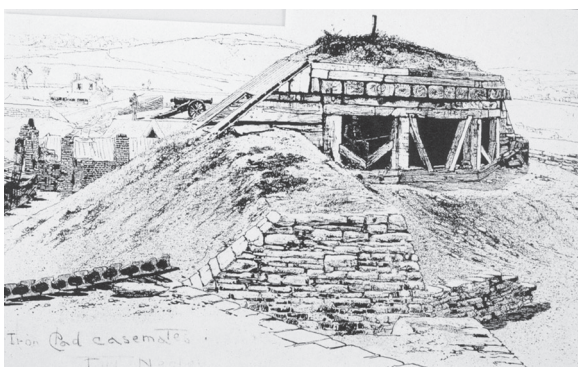
border state, Tennessee seemed “winnable” to President Lincoln on a political level, and he was determined to lend support to the large numbers of Unionists in East Tennessee.

Geographically, Tennessee represented a crucial border between North and South. Three major western rivers—the Mississippi, Tennessee, and Cumberland—pointed southward across Tennessee, and the Louisville and Nashville Railroad ran straight to the state capital. If not properly defended, all four routes offered avenues for military invasion of the South. With its 300-mile east-to-west border, Tennessee clearly was the path through which Federal invasion would come. Once the state declared for secession, the North pursued an aggressive military policy to retake and hold Tennessee. The state was, in Lincoln’s words, the “keystone of the Southern arch,” and controlling it became a paramount aim of Union strategy.

The Mississippi River bisected the Confederacy, while the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers flowed through its heartland. Union commanders in the West hoped to control these waterways and thereby split the Confederacy. By late 1861, Brigadier General Ulysses S. Grant, Major General Henry Halleck, and Commodore Andrew H. Foote were planning a riverborne invasion of Tennessee. At St. Louis, they busied engineer James Eads with building armored gunboats to send against the Confederate river defenses. By January 1862, Grant’s amphibious force and Foote’s gunboats were steaming south from Paducah on the Tennessee River.

Confederate leaders were no less determined to hold the line across Tennessee. Major General Albert Sidney Johnston, Confederate commander in the West, prepared a thin line of defense stretching from the Mississippi River to the Appalachian ranges. He ordered his generals and

engineers to fortify the bluffs above Memphis as well as a pair of forts guarding the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers. Johnston wanted to push his line north into Kentucky, but that state remained loyal to the Union and provided a haven for Federal troops. Nearly all his strongholds were in Tennessee, which now became the military frontline of the Confederacy. Many factors combined to make Tennessee the prime battleground of the Civil War's western theater.



*Sketch of artillery casemate at Fort Negley, Nashville*

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*“Our duty is clearly and unequivocally to repel by force and to make every sacrifice rather than submit to an administration that tramples down every barrier raised by our Forefathers for the protection of personal, social, and public rights.”*

**- James Otey, Episcopal Bishop,  
Knoxville**

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*Federal gunboats shelling Fort Henry*

## **Invasion By River**

The Confederate forts on the Cumberland and Tennessee Rivers were the southernmost points on Johnston's line of defense. Because the rivers flowed parallel to each other only 10 miles apart, Forts Henry and Donelson could be mutually supporting, although they also could be attacked by the same force. A substantial emplacement of batteries and earthworks, Fort Donelson guarded the Cumberland River near Dover. Fort Henry, however, had been hurriedly built on a low terrace prone to flooding. It proved indefensible when Commodore Foote's gunboats appeared on February 6, 1862 and was abandoned after a brief shelling. The quick fall of Fort Henry left the entire Tennessee River open to Union control. In a pointed demonstration of naval supremacy, Foote's gunboats steamed unopposed all the way to northern Alabama

General Grant marched his 27,000-strong army across the isthmus, and Foote's squadron steamed back down the Tennessee and up the Cumberland to rendezvous with him for the attack on Fort Donelson. There were some 17,000 Confederate troops within the fort's earthworks, under the divided command of three generals. During the first day's action (February 14), Confederate water batteries proved more than a match for the

gunboats, while a probe by Union infantry against the fort's eastern flank was repulsed. Despite the day's inconclusive fighting, two of the three Confederate generals panicked during an evening council of war. Gideon Pillow and John B. Floyd—both politician-generals—urged surrender on General Simon B. Buckner and then fled into the night. Grant ensured his fame when he responded to Buckner's offer to negotiate terms with his “unconditional surrender” ultimatum.

This stumbling defeat at Fort Donelson was even more disastrous to the South than the loss of the lower Tennessee River. The surrender at Dover Hotel quickly brought about the fall of Clarksville and Nashville, the loss of their factories and railroads, and the imprisonment of 12,000 troops (men the South could ill afford to lose). It effectively meant the loss of middle Tennessee for the Confederacy, since General Johnston had to pull his remaining forces back to Corinth, Mississippi.



*Soldier's map of Fort Donelson and Dover*

Stung by these sudden reverses, Johnston decided to strike the invading Federals. He advanced against them as they collected at an obscure place on the Tennessee River called Pittsburg Landing. The Rebel divisions struck at



dawn on April 6, 1862, smashing into the blueclad troops camped around a little country church called Shiloh. They drove the Federals back toward the river bluffs. By the time Grant, who had been quartered across the river in Savannah, reached the battlefield, his army appeared in danger of being driven into the river.

The Confederate juggernaut, however, stalled in front of a sunken farm road that came to be known as the Hornet's Nest. Before they were pounded into submission by point-blank artillery late in the day, the stubborn defenders of the Hornet's Nest bought enough time to allow Grant to form a defensive perimeter around the river landing. Troops of General Don Carlos Buell's army disembarked during the night to reinforce Grant, and by the morning of April 7 the Federal force had swelled to more than 39,000. General P. G. T. Beauregard, who took command of Confederate forces when Johnston was mortally wounded the previous afternoon, resumed the attack, only to be driven back by a strengthened enemy. After relinquishing the same ground they had gained the day before, the exhausted Southerners were ordered by Beauregard to return to Corinth.



*Shiloh National Military Park*

The bloodiest military engagement in American history to date, the Battle of Shiloh was a wake-up call to both sides that the war would be neither brief nor cheaply won. The nearly 24,000 casualties were a grim harbinger of large-scale

Civil War battles to come. Shiloh blunted the Southern effort to retake those parts of Tennessee lost in February. The Confederate pullback to Corinth meant, at least temporarily, the abandonment of middle Tennessee and its rivers to Federal control.

On the same day as the Confederate army withdrew from Shiloh, a large Rebel fort on the Mississippi River, Island No. 10, surrendered with 7,000 troops and scores of heavy guns. It fell to the same sort of combined army-navy operation that had been so successful in earlier river campaigns. Island No. 10 had been one of the South's best hopes for stopping the Federal river invasion above Vicksburg. Its loss cast serious doubt on the Confederacy's ability to hold the Tennessee shores of the Father of Waters.



*Tennessee State Capitol as Federal fort*

## Invasion By River

**1 Tennessee River Museum** – 495 Main St., Savannah, TN. 731-925-2364 or 1-800-552-3866. The Tennessee River was the invasion route for the Union armies in the West. Exhibits at the museum include: “The War on the River” which begins with a one-half scale model of the bow of the USS *Cairo*. The exhibit also contains many artifacts from this ill-fated ironclad and other gunboats. The “Army” exhibit features a collection of Shiloh field artillery, firearms and personal items. The “Johnsonville” exhibit features the story and equipage of Forrest’s cavalymen. Open daily. Admission is charged.

**2 Shiloh National Military Park** – 1055 Pittsburg Landing Rd., Shiloh, 38376, 731-689-5275. Shiloh was one of the Civil War’s major battles, where Union and Confederate casualties totaled 23,746. General Albert Sidney Johnston’s Army of the Mississippi, marching north from Corinth, attacked and partially overran Grant’s Federal Army of the Tennessee at this site. Shiloh was the first large-scale battle of the Civil War. Open daily. Admission is charged.

**3 Customs House Museum and Cultural Center** – 200 South Second St., Clarksville, 931-648-5780. County history exhibits are featured, including Civil War diaries, photos, weapons, flags, currency and a USCT regimental roll. Open Tues.-Sun. Admission is charged.

**Fort Defiance/Fort Bruce** – P.O. Box 383, Clarksville, 37041-0383, Corner of A Street and Pine Street, 931-648-5780. After the fall of Fort Donelson, Fort Defiance was burned and abandoned prior to the capture of Clarksville. The recapture of the city by Confederate soldiers and local citizens in August 1862 renewed interest in the fort. It was captured again by Union forces, and the fort was commanded for the remainder of the war by Colonel Sander D. Bruce, for whom it was renamed. Open daily. Admission is free.

**4 Fort Donelson National Battlefield** – P.O. Box 434, 174 National Cemetery Drive, Dover, 37058. 931-232-5706. Built by the Confederates to control the Cumberland River, the fort was captured in February 1862 by the Union Army under the command of General

Ulysses S. Grant. The victory secured Union control of the Cumberland River and caused the evacuation of Clarksville, Nashville and most of Middle Tennessee. The earthen fort, river batteries, outer earthwork, Dover Hotel and National Cemetery are accessible by a 6-mile self-guided auto tour. Tour begins at the visitor center, which includes a museum. Open daily. Admission is free. **The Dover Hotel** – P.O. Box 434, Dover, TN, 37058. 931-232-5706 - was the scene of Confederate General Simon Bolivar Buckner's surrender to General Grant. The house is the only original surrender structure remaining from the Civil War. Open June-Sept., daily. Admission is free.

**5 Homeplace 1850** – Mailing address: Land Between the Lakes, 100 Van Morgan Dr., Golden Pond, KY 42211-9001. Physical location: 13 miles north of Dover, TN, on the Trace in Land Between the Lakes, 931-232-6457. Homeplace 1850 is a living history, open-air museum that re-creates life on a mid-19th century Tennessee farm. Authentically furnished houses and barns, along with demonstrations of daily chores, bring to life a typical Civil War soldier's boyhood. In the Civil War, the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers were a gateway to Nashville and the all-important railroads that fed the Confederacy its troops and supplies. Homeplace 1850 considers the impact the war had on the yeoman farmers of Tennessee. Open to Public: Mar: Wed-Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm; Apr-Oct: Mon-Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm; Nov: Wed-Sat 9am-5pm, Sun 10am-5pm.

**6 Tennessee State Capitol** – 6th and Charlotte. **Tennessee State Museum** – 5th and Deaderick Streets, Nashville, 37243-1120, 615-741-2692. The Capitol was completed in 1859. Nashville became an occupied city in 1862 and remained so for the rest of the war. Named Fort Johnson for Tennessee's military governor, the fortifications around the capitol consisted of an earthwork connected by a stockade with loopholes. The State Museum includes a large Civil War section with descriptions and artifacts from each major battle in Tennessee, audio-visual presentations, firearms, uniforms, paintings and photographs of soldiers and a large collection of battle flags. State Capitol is open to visitors Mon.-Fri.; State Museum is open Tues.-Sun. Admission to both sites is free





*Hunt-Phelan House as Federal Hospital*

## **Fight for West Tennessee**

In the spring of 1862, Union strategy continued to focus on Tennessee and the grand objective of controlling the Mississippi River. Fresh from the triumph at Island No. 10, Commodore Foote's gunboat squadron steamed down river to join General John Pope's infantry in another combined army-navy assault. The target this time was the next Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi River, Fort Pillow. The attack stalled when Pope's troops were ordered elsewhere, and Confederate rams challenged the Union flotilla at Plum Point Bend. Despite these setbacks, Beauregard's retreat from Corinth left Fort Pillow in an untenable position, and, on June 3, the Confederate garrison abandoned the fort.

The Federal's Mississippi River fleet – now reinforced by Charles Ellet's swift rams – seemed unstoppable as it descended on Memphis. In a brief battle below the city bluffs on June 6, 1862, Union ironclads and rams made short work of a brave, but out-gunned Rebel fleet, sinking 7 of its 8 boats. Many residents of the city had foreseen the outcome of the Battle of Memphis and already fled, while troops destroyed what military supplies could not be carried away. For the second time, Tennessee's secessionist leaders had to flee Federal forces as Memphis, the capital of state government since the fall of Nashville, came under Union control.

With its railhead, docks and shipyards, Memphis became a vital Federal depot and command center for operations along the river. Tens of thousands of Federal soldiers came through Memphis during the war, including the sick and wounded housed in military hospitals such as the Hunt-Phelan House. Outlying towns along the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, particularly LaGrange, served as jumping-off points for Union incursions into Mississippi.



*Battle of Memphis*

After Major General Earl Van Dorn's Confederates were beaten at Corinth in October, 1862, they retreated across the state line into Tennessee. Attempting to cross the Hatchie River at Davis Bridge near Pocahton, they met fierce resistance from Generals Stephen Hurlburt and E. O. C. Ord's Federals. Van Dorn's force was in danger of being crushed between two Union contingents, until the Confederates found another way to cross the Hatchie and escape into Mississippi. This was the last time that any large body of Southern infantry would operate in the region. Though generally pro-Confederate, west Tennessee was occupied by Union troops for the duration of the war.

For the last two years of the war, Confederate military activity in west Tennessee was limited to cavalry raids led by Nathan Bedford Forrest, one of the most brilliant officers and cavalry tacticians of the war. A Memphis merchant and slave dealer, Forrest mustered in as a private and ended the war



One of Forrest's Men, *Painting*  
by Don Troiani

as a lieutenant general. He specialized in launching lightning raids against Union-held towns or positions, inflicting maximum damage, then disappearing into the countryside. Forrest's reputation inspired such fear and respect among Federal commanders that they sometimes surrendered without a shot being fired.

In December of 1862, Forrest's brigade of 2,100 cavalymen crossed the Tennessee River and headed toward Jackson and the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. Hoping to disrupt Grant's Vicksburg campaign, Forrest executed a series of punishing raids against Union positions. He

captured garrisons at Trenton, Humboldt, Dyersburg, and Union City and destroyed large amounts of railroad track. Two brigades of Federal infantry caught up with Forrest at Parker's Crossroads on December 31. Forrest's cavalry – for once taken by surprise – appeared to be caught between enemy lines, but Forrest parried each threat in turn and escaped the trap before his attackers could react. Elements of Forrest's brigade had fought earlier with Union cavalry at the Battle of Britton Lane near Jackson, capturing a number of prisoners and a supply train.

Early in 1864, Forrest's cavalry reentered west Tennessee to continue raiding. On April 12, he attacked the Union garrison at Fort Pillow and killed 64% of the U. S. Colored Troops inside the fort when they refused to surrender. Northern newspapers made the "Fort Pillow Massacre" a rallying cry against any negotiated peace with the South. In August, Forrest launched a daring daytime raid into Memphis itself. He failed in his objectives of capturing Union generals and releasing Confederate prisoners, although the mayhem he caused drew some Federal troops out of northern Mississippi.

By autumn of 1864, Confederate commanders were looking for a way to disrupt Major General William T. Sherman's hold on Atlanta and stymie his anticipated thrust into south Georgia. They turned to Forrest and his horse soldiers to wreak havoc with Sherman's supply line in Tennessee. The target was Johnsonville, a new railhead, river port, and supply depot on the Tennessee River. Forrest's men hauled artillery into a well-concealed position opposite Johnsonville and, on November 4, laid a withering fire into the docks, heaps of supplies, boats and barges. By nightfall, everything was ablaze. At the cost of 2 killed and 9 wounded, "that devil Forrest" (Sherman's words) destroyed 33 vessels and more than \$6 million of Federal property and took 150 prisoners. Uncertainty caused by Forrest's raids in his rear may have influenced Sherman's decision to cut his supply lines during his "March to the Sea" and live off the Georgia countryside.



*U.S. Colored Troops at Johnsonville*



## Fight For West Tennessee

**7 Hunt-Phelan Home** – 533 Beale St., Memphis, 38103. No phone number. Built between 1828-1832, the home was host to many well known Tennesseans such as President Andrew Jackson, Jefferson Davis and General Forrest. Confederate General Leonidas Polk planned the Battle of Corinth in the home. General U.S. Grant later used the home as his headquarters and planned the Vicksburg campaign in the library. The home also served as a Union hospital. After the war, one of the first schools for freed slaves was built on the property by the Freedman's Bureau. The home is not currently open to the public.

**8 Mississippi River Museum at Mud Island** – 125 N. Front St., Memphis, 38103-1713. 901-576-7232. The museum features five galleries dedicated to the significant role of the river in the Civil War. A life-sized replica of an ironclad gunboat is featured complete with audio visual program. An outdoor five-block long replica of the lower Mississippi River allows visitors to trace significant battles. Open Tues.-Sun. April 6-May 24; daily May 25-Sept. 2; Tues.-Sun. Sept. 3-Oct. 31. Admission is charged.

**9 Memphis National Cemetery** – 3568 Townes Ave., Memphis, TN 38122. 901-386-8311. Drive or walk around the grave sites of veterans while learning local history dating back to the Civil War. Of the 13,965 soldiers buried at this site, 8,866 are unknown. Other burials include those from the USS *Sultana*, which sank in April, 1865 and ranks as one of the nation's deadliest maritime disasters with 1,700 soldiers and crew lost. Guides are provided upon request. Open Mon.-Fri. Admission is free. Historic **Elmwood Cemetery** – 3568 Townes Ave., Memphis, TN 38122. 901-774-3212. Established in 1852, Elmwood is the oldest active cemetery in Memphis. Remains of 14 Confederate generals and 2 Union generals are interred here, along with those of 1,100 soldiers who fell in different battles.

**10 Fort Pillow State Historic Site** – 3122 Park Rd., Henning, TN 38041. 731-738-5581. Federal forces captured this important Confederate river fort in 1862.

On April 12, 1864, Confederate General Forrest attacked the fort and demanded immediate surrender of the garrison, but was refused. The fort was then stormed and captured. Due to high Union casualties and the presence of black troops, controversy surrounding this battle still exists today. Open daily; visitor center open Mon.-Fri. Admission is free.

**11 Britton Lane Battlefield** – 4707 Steam Mill Ferry Rd., Medon, 38356. 731-935-2209. These quiet woods and fields were the scene of a mighty conflict on Sept. 1, 1862, when Federal and Confederate troops clashed. During the four-hour battle, Confederates made furious charges across open cornfields to attack the Federal troops who were entrenched behind in a grove of trees on a hill. The battle resulted in the capture of 213 prisoners. Monuments mark the site along with a mass grave of Confederates. A restored Civil War-era cabin, used as a hospital during the battle, is open. After the battle, 87 prisoners were imprisoned in the Denmark Presbyterian Church, located near the battlefield. The structure still contains graffiti left by the Federal prisoners. Open daily. Admission is free.

**12 Salem Cemetery Battlefield** – 35 Cotton Grove Rd, Jackson, 38301. 731-424-1279. Self-guided tour with brochures available at the cemetery's main gate. The site has two large monuments, flag pole and battle map inlay showing the layout of the battle. A state historical marker identifies the site. A battle occurred nearby on December 19, 1862, between General Forrest's cavalry and Union troops. Approximately 1,000 men were engaged in the two-hour battle. Open during daylight hours. Admission is free. **Riverside Cemetery** – Riverside Drive, Jackson 38301. 731-425-8580. Established in 1830, the cemetery contains the graves of 140 unknown Confederate soldiers. Brochures for a self-guided tour are available at the gate. Open during daylight hours. Admission is free.

**13 Parker's Crossroads Battlefield** – 97 Battleground Dr., Parker's Crossroads, 38388 (location at exit 108, I-40 and Highway 22) 731-968-1191. The battle was fought on Dec. 31, 1862. Union forces sought to capture Confederate troops on their return from their first West

Tennessee raid. When Confederate General Forrest found himself caught between two Union forces, he ordered his troops to “charge both ways” and made a successful escape. Seven marked sites can be visited (with the help of an audio cassette) on a self-guided driving tour. Open daily. Admission is free.

**14 Nathan Bedford Forrest State Park** – 1825 Pilot Knob Rd., Eva, 38333. 731-584-6356. The park was named for General N. B. Forrest, the intrepid Confederate cavalry leader who on November 4, 1864, attacked and destroyed the Federal supply and munitions depot at (old) Johnsonville at the mouth of Trace Creek. His operations were concentrated along the river near the park and the town of Eva. The park features a monument to General Forrest and a map delineating the action at Johnsonville. Park open daily 24 hours; museum: Apr-Nov. Admission is free.

**15 Davis Bridge Battlefield** – c/o Davis Bidge Memorial Foundation, 1250 Clift Rd., Bolivar, TN 38008. 731-658-6554. After the Battle of Corinth on October 5, 1862, the retreating Confederate army under Generals Sterling Price and Earl Van Dorn met General Ord and 8,000 Union troops at Davis Bridge over the Hatchie River. An all-day battle ensued for the bridge. The Confederates managed to hold off the attacking Union forces and cross the Hatchie at Crum’s Mill, farther south. Monument and informational markers are open daily. Admission is free.

**16 Town of LaGrange** – P.O. Box 621, LaGrange, 38046. 901-878-1246. LaGrange was occupied by Federal troops from 1862 until the Civil War ended. In 1863, Grierson’s Raid—a daring raid through Mississippi carried out by U.S. cavalry under the command of Col. Benjamin H. Grierson—originated here. Immanuel Episcopal Church was a hospital. See the birthplace of Lucy Holcombe Pickens, the “Queen of the Confederacy,” and many antebellum homes. Open daily during daylight hours. Pick up driving tour brochure at Cogbill’s Store and Museum, 901-878-1235 or city hall, 901-878-1246. Cogbill’s Store and Museum is open Thurs-Sun except in winter, when it is open only on Sun 1-5pm; call ahead for schedule. Admission free.

**17 Forrest Park** – P.O. Box 241813, Memphis, 38124. This park in downtown Memphis is the site where Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest is buried. The park features a large, bronze equestrian statue of the general that was erected in 1905, as well as the granite monument that serves as the grave marker for the general and his wife, Mary Montgomery Forrest. After the Civil War, General Sherman said of Forrest, “He was the most remarkable man our Civil War produced on either side.” General Lee, when asked to identify the greatest soldier under his command, said, “a man I have never seen, ... Forrest.” The monument is located 2 blocks from the scene of Forrest’s death in 1877. Open daily 24 hours. Admission free.

**18 Memphis Pink Palace Museum** – 3050 Central Ave., Memphis, 38111. 901-320-6320. The Civil War exhibit displays artifacts, documents, and photographs of civilian Memphis; arms and equipment; and currency. It provides material on the war around Memphis, the battle of Memphis, Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, and Confederate veterans. A diorama depicting an artillery crew serving an ordnance rifle is the centerpiece of the exhibit. The Civil War exhibit is part of a larger museum. Open to Public: Memorial Day-Labor Day: Mon-Wed 9am-5pm, Thurs 9am-9pm, Fri, Sat 9am-10pm, Sun noon-5pm. Day after Labor Day-day before Memorial Day: Mon-Wed 9am-4pm, Thurs 9am-4pm, Fri, Sat 9am-9pm, Sun noon-5pm. Admission: Adults \$5.50, children \$4. Call for group rates.

\* For additional information, see *By River and Rail Into War: The Civil War in West Tennessee* (1998). Published by the Tennessee Wars Commission.





*Southern raiders attacking train*

## **Contest for Middle Tennessee**

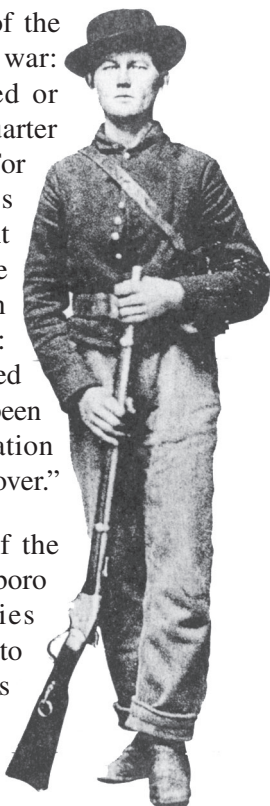
Unwilling to concede middle Tennessee to the Federals, the South continued to pursue aggressive military plans. Confederate Generals Braxton Bragg and Edmund Kirby Smith struck north into Kentucky in late summer of 1862, but Bragg's offensive ended in defeat at the Battle of Perryville. The Confederates pulled back through Tennessee, stopping in Rutherford County. In July, Forrest had taken the town of Murfreesboro (along with a thousand prisoners) and embarked on a series of raids along the Tennessee-Kentucky line. Forrest's exploits, together with cavalryman Colonel John Hunt Morgan's resounding successes at Gallatin and Hartsville, made Federal control of the region appear tenuous. Early in the war, cavalry proved one of the South's most effective weapons.

While Rebel cavalry chipped away at the Federal occupation, Major General William S. Rosecrans stockpiled men and supplies at Nashville. With Bragg smarting from his Kentucky reverses and encamped only 30 miles away, a clash between the two armies seemed imminent. After prodding from Lincoln, who always urged his generals to carry the war to the enemy, Rosecrans moved cautiously toward Murfreesboro. His 42,000-man Army of the Cumberland faced off against Bragg's 35,000-man Army of Tennessee.

On the morning of December 31, Rebel infantry struck a hammer blow against the Union right flank, driving part of Rosecrans's army back on the remainder of his force. Resistance stiffened around General Philip Sheridan's units, however, and the Confederate attack became piecemeal and broke apart. Rosecrans dug in along the Nashville Pike, determined to hold his position. Following a respite on New Year's Day, Bragg ordered General John Breckenridge's division to make what proved to be a hopeless attack that only added 1,600 more Confederate casualties. Having wired CSA President Jefferson Davis to announce – prematurely – a victory, Bragg now decided his army was in no shape to absorb further punishment and retreated toward Tullahoma.

Proportionally, the Battle of Stones River was one of the bloodiest of the entire war: each side lost, as killed or wounded, between a quarter and third of its troops. For the Federals, Bragg's retreat was the only bright news of an otherwise dismal winter. Lincoln later wrote to Rosecrans: "You gave us a hard-earned victory which, had there been a defeat instead, the nation could hardly have lived over."

It was a measure of the ferocity of the Murfreesboro fight that both armies withdrew for six months to recuperate. Rosecrans returned to Nashville, and Bragg took up defensive positions along a ridgeline north



*Mounted infantryman of  
Wilder's Brigade*

of Duck River. A late summer campaign saw the Union commander dislodge the Confederates from their defensive line. With the help of a brigade of mounted men armed with repeating Spencer rifles, Federal columns out-flanked Bragg's army and sent it retreating to Chattanooga. In a relatively bloodless campaign, Rosecrans had pushed the Army of Tennessee south of the Tennessee River.

The success of Confederate raiding made the Federals tighten their grip on the civilian populace. With Forrest's troopers abroad, Federal garrisons were understandably jumpy and regarded most natives as in league with the enemy. Foraging was a serious burden on citizens, as both armies scoured the countryside and stripped farms of food, wood, and livestock. Guerilla-style fighting by undisciplined partisans, clan vendettas, and plain banditry produced an ugly form of civil warfare across much of the state.



*Southern refugees*

Part of this 'behind-the-lines' conflict involved espionage. Sam Davis, a young Confederate soldier from Smyrna, was captured behind enemy lines with documents describing Union troop dispositions. Although Davis was offered a pardon to divulge the source of his information, he refused and was hanged in Pulaski on November 21, 1863.

Pulaski was one of many outposts where Union troops kept uneasy guard over the railroad and the townspeople. Middle Tennessee endured enemy occupation longer than almost any other region of the South.



*USCT infantryman*

Another sign that there was more to civil war than strictly military issues was the fact that, beginning in the fall of 1863, the U. S. government began enlisting freed slaves as soldiers. These units, commanded by white officers, were officially designated as United States Colored Troops (USCT). The state of Tennessee contributed nearly 21,000 African-American soldiers, 10% of the total number of blacks mustered into service with the U. S. Army. USCT units garrisoned towns, forts, and railroads and played a key role in several battles in Tennessee.

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*“When General Thomas rode over the battelfield and saw the bodies of colored men side by side with the foremost, on the very works of the enemy, he turned to his staff, saying ‘Gentlemen, the question is settled, Negroes will fight.’ ”*

**-Colonel Thomas J. Morgan,  
14th U.S. Colored Infantry**

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## Contest For Middle Tennessee

**19 Johnsonville State Historic Area** – Route 1, Box 37-4, New Johnsonville, 37134. 931-535-2789. On November 4, 1864, at Johnsonville, General Forrest's cavalry took up artillery positions on the west bank of the Tennessee River. The Confederates destroyed the Federal depot on the east bank at Johnsonville. Two large forts in the park are open to visitors. Open daily. Admission is free.

**20 Cumberland County Driving Tour** – Cumberland County Courthouse, Crossville, 38555. 931-484-6165. The audio tour tape "Civil War Trails Across Cumberland County," is available in the office of the county executive.

**21 Tullahoma Campaign Driving Tour** – Tennessee Backroads Heritage Association, 300 S. Jackson, Tullahoma, 37388. 1-800-799-6131 or 931-454-9446. Driving tour of important scenes of the Tullahoma Campaign—the setting for several fierce engagements. From battles to encampments to guerrilla-style encounters, the campaign followed the Battle of Stones River and led to Chattanooga. **Franklin County Old Jail Museum** – 400 Dinah Shore Blvd., Winchester, 931-967-0524. Six rooms of artifacts, documents, photographs and displays recapture the history of Franklin County, including the effect of the Civil War on the area. Open mid-March through mid-December. Admission is charged.

**22 Sam Davis Trail** – 110 N. Second St., Pulaski, TN 38478-3219. 931-363-3789. Self-guided tour provides a brochure to follow stops at sites related to Sam Davis, Boy Hero of the Confederacy, who was captured by the Union army and executed as a spy. Sites include a monument, museum, cemetery and statue on the town square. Brochures available at the chamber of commerce Mon-Fri. There is no charge for the tour.

**23 Sam Davis Home** – 1399 Sam Davis Road, Smyrna, 37167. 615-459-2341. Family home and farm of the Boy Hero of the Confederacy. The site interprets upper middle class life in the antebellum era and tells the story of Sam Davis, who was captured by the Union Army and executed as a spy at the age of 21. Open daily. Admission is charged.

**24 Oaklands Historic House Museum** – 900 N. Maney Ave., Murfreesboro, 37130. 615-893-0022. Oaklands was one of the largest plantations in Rutherford County during the Civil War era. It was the home of one of the county's wealthiest families, the Maney family. Oaklands was host to Jefferson Davis on December 13, 1862. The site was used by the Union army in June 1862 as a camp. On July 13, 1862, Confederate General Forrest and his cavalry captured Murfreesboro. The surrender was negotiated at Oaklands. Open Tues.-Sun. Admission is charged.

**25 Stones River National Battlefield** – 3501 Old Nashville Highway, Murfreesboro, 37129. 615-893-9501. A fierce battle took place here between December 31, 1862 and January 2, 1863. More than 81,000 soldiers grappled in the fields and cedar glades along Stone's River, and 23,000 became casualties in one of the bloodiest battles fought in the western theater. Bragg's Confederates withdrew after the battle, allowing Rosecrans and the Union Army to control Middle Tennessee. The battle set the stage for the Union advance to Chattanooga. Open daily. Admission is free. With the battlefield left in the hands of the Federal army, engineers constructed **Fortress Rosecrans**, a large earthen supply depot and one of the most extensive field fortifications in Tennessee. Stone's River has been ranked among the most endangered battlefield sites in the nation.

**26 Sumner County Museum** – 183 W. Main St., Gallatin, 37066. 615-451-3738. Museum features over 250,000 artifacts, including exhibits about local Civil War actions. Open Apr. 1-Nov. 1, Wed-Sat, 9am-4:30pm, Sun 1-4:30pm. Admission is charged

**27 Battle of Hartsville Driving Tour** – c/o Battle of Hartsville Preservation, 102 McMurry Blvd., or 240 Broadway, Hartsville, TN 37074. 615-374-9243. Called "the most successfully executed cavalry raid of the War Between the States," it was from this battle that Col. John Hunt Morgan received his commission to brigadier general. Driving tour includes buildings used as hospitals, sites where Morgan rushed 1,834 prisoners after the 75-minute battle, river crossings, rendezvous points, homes and a cemetery. Open daily.



**28 Mount Olivet Cemetery** – 1101 Lebanon Rd., Nashville, 37210. 615-255-4193. This cemetery is the final resting place of nearly 1,500 Confederate soldiers. The Confederate Circle Monument marks the remains of individuals of all ranks. Mount Olivet is also the burial place for seven generals, including Benjamin F. Cheatham and William B. Bate. There is an annual tour of the cemetery with living history; call for schedule. Open daily. Admission is free.

**29 Tennessee Civil War Railroad Driving Tour** – Waverly Chamber of Commerce, 124 East Main Street or P.O. Box 733, Waverly, 37185. 931-296-4865. A brochure is available that features the history of three counties along the 78 miles of Civil War rail line. Former slaves were impressed by Federals to complete construction of the Nashville & Northwestern Railroad from the capital city to Johnsonville on the Tennessee River. This railway provided a valuable supply line for Union armies in the western theater of war. The laborers who worked on the line were inducted into the 12th and 13th US Colored Infantry Regiments, among the first black military units organized during the war.

\* For additional information, see *Advance Into the Heartland: The Civil War in Middle Tennessee* (1998). Published by the Tennessee Wars Commission.



*General Grant on Lookout Mountain*

## **East Tennessee's Mountain War**

The split between Unionists and Confederates was, if anything, more fractious and violent in eastern Tennessee than in the rest of the state. Politically and geographically, the mountainous East was distinctive. Although there were slaveowners, particularly in Chattanooga and Knoxville, most east Tennesseans lived apart from the cotton economy and strongly opposed secession. Most of the 42,000 white Tennesseans who joined the Union Army were from this section. The East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad, joined to the East Tennessee and Georgia Railroad, was the only railway that crossed the Appalachian Mountains and connected Virginia with the South's interior. While rivers held the key to west and middle Tennessee, railroads supplied the crucial arteries in the east.

This made the region of vital importance to the Confederacy, whose troops occupied Knoxville and tried early in the war to secure the valley towns. An irony of the war in Tennessee was that Federals controlled mostly secessionist areas, while the Confederate Army held sway over a predominantly Unionist region. One of the first acts of east Tennessee Unionists was to burn railroad bridges in an attempt to sever the rail connections with the Confederacy. Confederate authorities reacted by harshly suppressing loyalists – they hung a number of the bridge burners and imprisoned many other Unionists.

Part of the Rebel effort in east Tennessee involved control of the famous thoroughfare at Cumberland Gap. The Gap proved to be difficult to defend (and not as strategically important as once thought), but the Confederates regarded it as a gateway to the region and seized it early in the war. The battle at nearby Fishing Creek, in which General Felix Zollicoffer was killed, was part of the general collapse of the Confederate line in spring, 1862. For the remainder of the war, major campaigns in east Tennessee bypassed the Cumberland Gap.



*Wartime Chattanooga*

True to his political convictions, President Lincoln sought a military effort to relieve the east Tennessee Unionists. His goal was partly achieved on September 1-3, 1863, when General Ambrose Burnside forced the Confederates to abandon Knoxville and marched his troops into the city. Having been pushed out of middle Tennessee back in the summer, Bragg's Army of Tennessee occupied Chattanooga, to which the focus of the western theater now shifted. This crucial railroad junction truly was a gateway to Georgia and the deep South. It was a great blow to Rebel hopes when, on September 9, Rosecrans again got his columns behind the Confederate line and forced Bragg to evacuate Chattanooga.

The stage seemed set for the Federals to split the Confederacy by thrusting south from Chattanooga. Lulled into false confidence by the ease with which he had handled Bragg, however, Rosecrans over-reached himself at the Battle of Chickamauga on September 19-20, 1863. The resulting near rout of the Union army, halted only by Thomas's stand on Snodgrass Hill, sent the rattled Rosecrans scurrying back to Chattanooga. Bragg then occupied the surrounding heights and half-heartedly lay siege to the city.

Startled by this sudden reversal of fortune, Lincoln appointed Ulysses S. Grant to overall command in the West, and Grant replaced Rosecrans with General George S. Thomas. The Union commander's first priority was to break Bragg's blockade of Chattanooga, which he did by establishing a supply line – the “Cracker Line” – across pontoon bridges into the city. Having resupplied and reinforced his army, Grant moved to break the siege and drive Bragg off the heights above the city. On November 24, Union forces under General “Fighting Joe” Hooker, retook Lookout Mountain in the so-called “Battle above the Clouds.” The next day, in a stunning reversal of the Chickamauga defeat, Thomas's corps swept Bragg's forces from Missionary Ridge and sent them retreating toward Atlanta. The “Gateway City” of Chattanooga was now firmly in Federal hands, and the path to Georgia lay open to invasion by Grant's chief lieutenant, William T. Sherman.



*Earthworks at Fort Sanders*

Three weeks before Missionary Ridge, Bragg had ordered the 12,000 soldiers of the Army of Northern Virginia, under General James Longstreet, and 5,000 cavalry led by Joseph Wheeler, to drive the Federals from Knoxville. Burnside and his Army of the Ohio withdrew into the city's fortifications, which included Forts Dickerson and Sanders. On November 29, Longstreet launched a disastrous assault on Fort Sanders, resulting in heavy Confederate losses. Knoxville remained in Union hands, and Longstreet withdrew his battered divisions into winter quarters around Morristown.

The Chattanooga and Knoxville campaigns cemented Union control of the mountain region. Depredations by Confederate raiders continued, but Federal supremacy was never again seriously challenged. In September, 1864, General John Hunt Morgan, formerly a terror to Union troops, was ignominiously shot down in Greeneville. The political significance of east Tennessee Unionism became evident during the 1864 national election, when Lincoln drafted a Greeneville Democrat, Andrew Johnson, as his vice presidential running mate. The selection of a Southern loyalist symbolized the sort of compromise that Lincoln believed would be necessary to reunify the country after the war. East Tennessee Unionists such as Johnson and William G. "Parson" Brownlow would lead the process of restoring Tennessee to the nation—the first Confederate state to do so.



*Re-enactment at Stone's River*

## East Tennessee's Mountain War

**30 Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park** – Point Park Visitor Center, Lookout Mountain, 37350. 423-821-7786. Site where the Battles for Chattanooga were fought in October and November 1863, including Lookout Mountain, Orchard Knob, Missionary Ridge, Signal Point and Wauhatchie. The battles resulted in a Northern victory and opened the way for the invasion of Georgia in 1864. Point Park provides an observatory for orientation to the battles, and a large historic painting of the attack on Lookout Mountain is located in the visitor center. The battlefield is open daily. Admission is free. The historic Craven's House is open in the summer. Admission is charged.

**31 Battles for Chattanooga Museum** – 1110 E. Brow Rd., Lookout Mountain, 37350. 423-821-2812. Experience the battles for Chattanooga through the sights and sounds of a three-dimensional, 480 sq. ft. electronic battle map. More than 5,000 miniature soldiers and dramatic sound effects show troop movements during the 1863 battles. Open daily. Admission is charged.

**32 Chattanooga National Cemetery** – 1200 Bailey Ave., Chattanooga, 37404. 423-855-6590. Chattanooga National Cemetery was established in December 1863 by an order from General George Thomas to provide a proper burial for Union soldiers killed in battles around Chattanooga. Eight Andrews' Raiders are buried in the cemetery, four of whom were the first to receive the Medal of Honor. In April, 1862 these men were among the 22 Union volunteers who hijacked the locomotive "General" as part of an attempt to disrupt Confederate supply lines in Georgia. Open daily. Admission is free.

**33 Chattanooga Regional History Museum** – 400 Chestnut St., Chattanooga, 37402. 423-265-3247. The Chattanooga Regional History Museum has an extensive Civil War collection, including a mountain howitzer; Grant's headquarter's chair; dozens of muskets, rifles, swords, knives, pistols, and projectiles; various accoutrements; uniforms; original photographs taken by R.M. Linn and George N. Bernard; diaries and letters. Open daily. Admission is charged.



**34 Loudon County Museum/Carmichael Inn** – 501 Poplar St., Loudon, 37774. Museum includes Civil War exhibits showcased in the Carmichael Inn, a circa 1810 two-story log cabin used as a stagecoach inn. A self-guided tour of downtown Loudon and the county tells of the town's early years and Civil War history. Open daily. Admission is free.

**35 Farragut Folklife Museum** – 11408 Municipal Center Drive, Farragut, 37922. 865-966-7057. This small museum contains an impressive collection of artifacts of Admiral David Glasgow Farragut, one of the nation's leading Civil War admirals, who was born a few miles from the site. Open Mon.-Fri. 2-4 pm. Admission charge.

**36 Knoxville Driving Tour-Siege of Knoxville and Battle of Fort Sanders** – 301 South Gay St., Knoxville, TN 37902. 865-523-7263. Tour features sites relating to the November, 1863, attempt by Confederate General James Longstreet to capture Knoxville and the army of Union General Ambrose E. Burnside. Some of the sites include: Longstreet's headquarters, Fort Dickerson, cemeteries, hospitals, site of mortal wounding of Union Gen. William P. Sanders, and the site of the unsuccessful Confederate attack on Fort Sanders. Brochures by the Knoxville Civil War Roundtable are available at the Knoxville Visitors Center, 810 Clinch Ave.

**37 Fort Dickerson** – 301 South Gay St., Knoxville, TN 37902. 800-727-8045 or 865-523-7263. Begun in November, 1863, Fort Dickerson was one of 16 earthen forts and battery emplacements built by the Federal army to protect Knoxville during the Civil War. The position was attacked by Confederate cavalry under Gen. Joseph Wheeler on November 15, 1863, but the assault was cancelled because of the formidable terrain, artillery, and unexpected strong force guarding the approaches to Knoxville. Open daily. Admission is free.

**38 Museum of East Tennessee History** – 601 South Gay St., Knoxville, TN 37902. The museum interprets and preserves the history of the East Tennessee region. A section of "The East Tennesseans" exhibit is dedicated to the Civil War, with uniforms, weaponry, flags, and photographs. Open Tues.-Sun. Admission is free.

**39 Confederate Memorial Hall (Bleak House)** – 3148 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, 37919. 865-522-2371. Bleak House is a Victorian mansion built in 1858 by prominent Knoxville Robert H. Armstrong, using slave labor to mold the bricks on-site. During the siege of Knoxville in November and December 1863, the home served as headquarters for Confederate Generals James Longstreet and Lafayette McLaws. Three sharpshooters using the house's tower were killed here by Federal cannon fire, and a period sketch of their likenesses remains on the wall of the tower. Two cannonballs are still embedded in the walls. Open Tues.-Fri. afternoons, other times by appointment. Admission is charged.

**40 Mabry-Hazen House** – 1711 Dandridge Avenue, Knoxville, 37915. 865-522-8661. This antebellum home was alternately occupied by Union and Confederate forces. In 1861, Confederate General Felix Zollicoffer set up headquarters in the house, and later, during the Union occupation, the grounds were fortified. Thousands of artifacts, including Mrs. Mabry's sketch of the trenches surrounding the house, create a personal picture of family life during the war years. Open daily. Admission is charged.

**41 Confederate Cemetery** – 1917 Bethel Ave., Knoxville, 37915. 865-522-8661. The cemetery was established during the Confederate occupation of Knoxville, 1861-1863. More than 1,600 Confederates are interred in the landscaped gardens. Call for hours. **Old Gray Cemetery** – P.O. Box 806, Knoxville, 37917 (located at 543 N. Broadway). 423-522-1424. This 13-acre Victorian cemetery reflects the divided sympathies of east Tennesseans with gravestones and sculptured monuments honoring both the Unionists and Confederates. Many notable Knoxvilleians are buried here, including Tennessee's Reconstruction governor William G. "Parson" Brownlow, Confederate Colonel Henry M. Ashby and General William R. Caswell. Open daily. Admission is free. **Veteran's National Cemetery** – 939 Tyson Street, Knoxville, 37917 (next to Old Gray Cemetery). Established immediately after the siege of Knoxville, this cemetery contains Federal casualties from the Battle of Fort Sanders and members of 1st Heavy Artillery, USCT. Open daily.

**42 The Abraham Lincoln Museum** – Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, 37752. 423-869-6235. The life and times of the 16th president are recounted at this museum. Located three miles south of Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, the museum houses one of the nation's largest Lincoln collections. Open daily. Admission is charged.

**43 Cumberland Gap National Historical Park** – US 25E South, P.O. Box 1848, Middlesboro, KY 40965. 606-248-2817. Cumberland Gap is the historic mountain pass on the Wilderness Road that opened the pathway for western migration. During the Civil War, the Cumberland Gap was held first by the South and then captured by Union troops. Each side held the Gap twice.

**44 From Bridge to Bridge, the Civil War in East Tennessee** – East TN Driving Tour presented in brochure format, is a self-guiding tour of historical sites during the War Between the States in the East Tennessee Valley. Beginning at the Strawberry Plains Bridge over the Holston River at the Knox/Jefferson County line, the tour generally follows Hwy 11E and visits 23 locations over its 40 mile length to end at the Lick Creek Bridge in Western Greene County. Both bridges were burned during the war. Stops at Rose Center's Hal Noe Museum in Morristown and historic Bethesda Church include displays of artifacts, photos, and written historical information. Information about a short side tour to Civil War sites in the Dandridge area is available at the Rose Center. To obtain brochures or for more information please contact Rose Center at 423-581-4330 or visit their web site: [www.rosecenter.org](http://www.rosecenter.org).

**45 Andrew Johnson National Historic Site** – 121 Monument Ave., Greeneville, TN 37744. 423-638-3551 or 423-639-3711. Site marks the home of the 17th president. Site contains a visitors center, Johnson's tailor shop, two homes of the former president (one furnished with Johnson memorabilia) and the National Cemetery. Open daily. Admission is charged for the home tour only.

**46 Dickson-Williams Mansion** – 114 W. Church St., Greeneville, 37745. This home, called the "Showplace of East Tennessee," was headquarters for Union and

Confederate armies. It was in this house that General John Hunt Morgan, the “Rebel Raider,” spent his last night before he was killed in the garden on September 4, 1864. The room in which he slept has the original furnishings that were there when Morgan occupied the room. Open Mon.-Sat. Sunday tours by appointment. Admission is charged.

**47 Tipton-Haynes Historic Site** – P.O. Box 225, 2620 South Roan St., Johnson City, 37605. 423-926-3631. Home of Landon Carter Haynes from 1839 until the Civil War. He was an attorney, newspaper editor and Confederate senator. There are 10 original and restored buildings, dating from 1783-1870, gardens, cave, and nature area. Open Mon.-Fri., Nov. 1-March 31, daily April 1-Oct. 31. Admission is charged.

**48 Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center** – 117 Boone St., Jonesborough, 37659. 423-753-1012. A guided walking or buggy ride through Jonesborough points out sites that were headquarters, hospitals, prisons, cemeteries and homes of noted persons related to the Civil War. Tour begins at the visitors center. There is a charge for the guided tour and reservations can be made. A self-guided county tour map includes homes which served as hospitals and headquarters, encampment and skirmish sites, and the route of the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad. Open daily.

\* For additional information, see *The Mountains, the Railroad and the Valley: The Civil War in East Tennessee* (1998). Published by the Tennessee Wars Commission.

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*“We were so badly off for horseshoes that on the advance to Knoxville we had stripped the shoes from all the dead horses....Our men were nearly as badly off as the animals – perhaps worse, as they did not have hoofs. I have myself seen bloody stains on frozen ground, left by the barefooted where our infantry had passed. We of the artillery took the shoes off the drivers and gave them to the cannoneers who had to march.”*

**- General E.P.Alexander  
C.S.A., late, 1864**

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*General John Bell Hood*

## **Hood's Tennessee Campaign**

In July of 1864, Confederate President Jefferson Davis gave command of the Army of Tennessee to Lt. Gen. John Bell Hood of Tenn. Putting the aggressive Hood in charge of that battle-weary army was a desperate move, made at the low ebb of Confederate fortunes in the West. Hood's reputation had been made on hard-hitting infantry charges, but the Confederacy's beleaguered situation seemed to call for conserving scarce manpower.

True to form, following the fall of Atlanta, Hood tried to turn the tables on the victorious Federals by carrying the war back to Tennessee. He hoped to defeat the scattered Union forces there, move against Maj. Gen. George Thomas at Nashville, and threaten Sherman's rear. Hood's was a rash plan, but one that was welcomed by the Tennesseans in his army, who were anxious to return to their home state.

Hood's 38,000-man army, underfed and poorly supplied for an early winter campaign, crossed the Tennessee River near Florence, Alabama on November 21. His rapid march north aimed at cutting off Maj. Gen. John Schofield's two corps,

which were marching north from Pulaski. If he could get between them and Nashville, he could defeat them in detail before turning his attention to Thomas at Nashville. Hood caught up to the Federals at Spring Hill and seemed poised, on November 29, to get astride Schofield's path.

In one of the critical leadership blunders that constantly beset the Army of Tennessee, Hood and his generals allowed Schofield's troops to pass freely during the night and reach Franklin. There they dug in behind field fortifications left over from an earlier campaign. Hood, livid that the enemy had escaped his clutches and believing that his own army had grown timid, determined to strike the Federals at the first opportunity.



Cleburne at Franklin, *Painting by David Wright*

That opportunity came soon enough, as the Confederate vanguard reached the vicinity of Franklin at mid-afternoon of November 30. From Winstead Hill, they looked down on Schofield's army waiting behind well-defended earthworks. Despite facing unfavorable conditions for a frontal assault and lacking artillery for support, Hood



ordered an attack. He sent 23,000 stalwart veterans across two miles of open country in one of the most magnificent charges of the war. It proved to be a suicidal effort.

In five hours of ferocious fighting, Confederate regiments hurled themselves against the Union breastworks. Rebel attackers breached the Federal line near the Carter House, but a savage counterattack by Col. Emerson Opdycke's "Tigers" (*see cover*) quickly sealed the gap. When the carnage was finally ended by nightfall, the Battle of Franklin had cost the South 1,750 killed, including six generals, and 7,000 total casualties (compared to 2,000 Federal casualties). Although Schofield continued his retreat to Nashville, leaving the field to the Southerners, it was a hollow gain. Hood's recklessness had effectively destroyed the Army of Tennessee.

The disaster at Franklin did not deter Hood from carrying on toward Nashville. During the 33 months that Federal forces had occupied Nashville, they had turned the city into one of the most heavily fortified in the nation. In the forlorn hope that Thomas's army could be lured into a mistake, Hood spread his thin line of troops over hills to the south and west of Nashville. Thomas took his time moving against the ragged Rebel army. When he did, on December 15, he used two brigades of African-American infantry in a diversionary attack on the Confederate right flank. This pressure kept Hood's attention from the real threat on his left, against which Thomas sent more men than Hood had in his entire army.



*USCT troops at Battle of Nashville*

On the afternoon of December 16, when a Union charge broke the Confederate line at Shy's Hill, the Army of Tennessee began to come apart. The breakthrough quickly turned into a rout with the remnants of Hood's army fleeing southward in an icy rain. Scattered Confederate units continued to fight gamely, allowing what remained of the army to escape across the Tennessee River. These rearguard actions were among the last armed engagements in Tennessee.



*Fort Negley, Nashville*

Far from being decisive, the Battle of Nashville was a foregone conclusion – a tragic aftermath to earlier debacles at Atlanta and Franklin. That Hood could even make this strike into the heart of Federal-controlled territory was a testament to the fighting caliber of the veteran Army of Tennessee. In his reckless hands, even these battle-hardened troops were used up and wasted. Not until the last Confederate stragglers crossed the state line did the struggle for Tennessee finally draw to a close.

## Hood's Tennessee Campaign

**49 The Carter House** – 1140 Columbia Ave., Franklin, 37065. 615-791-1861. A National Historic Landmark, this home was at the center of the ferocious Battle of Franklin, during which it was used as a Federal command post. Although the engagement lasted only 5 hours, more generals died in this battle than any other, and more Confederate soldiers were killed than in Pickett's Charge. Tour includes a museum, video presentation and guided tour of the house and grounds. Open daily. Admission is charged.

**50 Carnton Plantation** – 1345 Carnton Lane, Franklin, 37064. 615-794-0903. This antebellum plantation was built by Randal McGavock, a former mayor of Nashville. On November 30, 1864, Confederate troops moved through the grounds to engage well entrenched Federal troops in the Battle of Franklin. Wounded soldiers were taken to Carnton, which served as a hospital and furnished an impromptu burial ground. In 1866, two acres were given by the McGavocks to be used as a Confederate cemetery. The **McGavock Confederate Cemetery** is a National Historic Landmark and the largest private Confederate cemetery in the nation. A booklet about the cemetery is available by writing 611 W. Main St., Genealogy Dept., Franklin, TN 37064. Open daily. Admission to the house is charged; the cemetery is free.

**51 Winstead Hill** – Mailing address: 4439 Peytonsville Rd., Franklin, 37064. 615-794-1861. General Hood's troops formed on Winstead Hill before their great charge at the Battle of Franklin. A memorial to the Army of Tennessee stands on the hill today. The overlook features a large military map and memorials to the Confederate generals who died in this battle.

**52 Fort Granger** – P.O. Box 305, Franklin, 37065. 615-794-1861. In February, 1863, General Rosecrans, in command of the Federal troops in middle Tennessee, ordered Major General Gordon Granger to fortify Franklin. During Hood's attack on November 30, 1864, artillery fire from this fort slammed into the Confederate right flank. The fort was abandoned when the Federals retreated toward Nashville during the night, but was

reoccupied two weeks later as Hood's defeated army withdrew from Tennessee. Open daily. Admission is free. Tours arranged through the Carter House, 615-791-1861.

**53 Lotz House** – 1111 Columbia Ave., Franklin. Built in 1858 by German woodworker Albert Lotz, the house retains much of his handiwork. The home is located near the Carter House, and the Lotz family hid there with the Carters during the Battle of Franklin. The home is not open to the public.

**54 Historic Travellers Rest** – 636 Farrell Parkway, Nashville, 37220, 615-832-8197. This house is one of the city's oldest residences, built in 1799 by Judge John Overton. During the Civil War, Union troops camped on the grounds during the Federal occupation of Nashville. For two weeks prior to the Battle of Nashville, the home was headquarters of Confederate commander General John Bell Hood. Riding from Murfreesboro to confer with Hood, General Forrest spent the night on December 11, 1864. During the second day of the Battle of Nashville, Dec. 16, 1864, U.S. Colored Infantry charged the Confederate right flank on Peach Orchard Hill, located on the Overton property and within sight of the house. Open Tues.-Sat. Admission is charged.

**55 Battle of Nashville Driving Tour** – c/o Metropolitan Historical Commission, 209 10th Ave., Suite 414, Nashville, 37203. 615-862-7970. The Battle of Nashville was one of the final large-scale engagements of the Civil War. Fought on December 15-16, 1864, the Confederacy's last offensive action finished the Army of Tennessee as an effective fighting force. The driving tour includes the main points of the Union defenses of Nashville and the Confederate lines of battle. Brochures are available at the Nashville Chamber of Commerce and the Metro Historical Commission, Mon-Fri. and the Nashville Visitors Center, daily. There is no charge.

**56 Belle Meade Plantation** – 5025 Harding Road, Nashville, 37205. 615-356-0501. Battle of Nashville bullets scar the massive front porch columns of Belle Meade, which served as Confederate General James R. Chalmers's headquarters during the battle. Today the 1850s mansion has been elegantly restored to recall the days when the "Queen of Tennessee Plantations" was world-renowned as a 5,400 acre thoroughbred farm and

nursery. Guided tours are given by authentically costumed interpreters. Open daily. Admission is charged.

**57 Belmont Mansion** – 1900 Belmont Blvd., Nashville, 37212. 615-460-5459. This elegant house was built by Joseph and Adelia Acklen in 1853 and enlarged in 1859-60. During the Civil War, it served as headquarters for Union General David Stanley and, later, for General Thomas J. Wood, commander of the 4th Army Corps. At Belmont, Wood gave orders to all division commanders for the first day of the Battle of Nashville. Open June-Aug., daily, Sept.-May, Tues.-Sat. Admission is charged.

**58 Battle of Nashville Monument** – Granny White Pike & Battlefield Dr., Nashville, 615-532-1550. The 1926 statue by Giuseppe Moretti has recently been restored and rededicated on a small tract of the battlefield where the clash of December 15-16, 1864, took place. Nearby, Confederate forces under General Hood reached their furthest advance in their failed attempt to retake Nashville. Somewhat unusual in that it was designed to memorialize both Union and Confederate soldiers, this was also a peace monument to honor the Americans who fought and died in World War I.

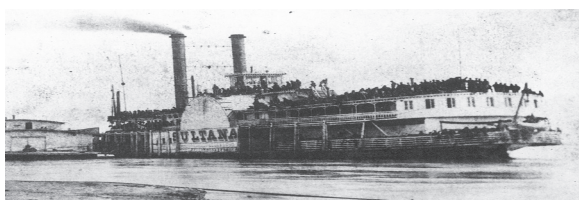
**59 Spring Hill Battlefield** – 5700 Main St., Spring Hill, 37174. 931-486-9037 or 888-852-1860. On Nov. 29, 1864, at Spring Hill, General Hood lost his best chance to capture Schofield's army, and the incident became one of the most controversial events of the war. Two historic homes associated with the battle, Oaklawn and Rippavilla, are available for tours. The owner of *Rippavilla*, Confederate Major Nathaniel Cheairs, carried the white flag of surrender to Grant at Fort Donelson and, on November 30, 1864, welcomed Hood and his ranking officers to breakfast. It was here that Hood angrily accused his staff of letting the entire Federal army escape to Franklin. Self-driving tour maps are available at Rippavilla. Open daily. Admission is charged.

**60 The Athenaeum Rectory** – 808 Athenaeum St., Columbia, 38401. 931-381-4822. The rectory was the home of the Rev. Franklin Smith, president of the Columbia Athenaeum, a school renowned for its progressive 19th century curriculum. Smith outfitted a

company of Confederate soldiers, the Maury Rifles. He also designed and built a submarine for the Confederacy. The rectory was headquarters for Generals Negley and Schofield, and General Forrest was also a frequent visitor. Open Feb.-Dec. Admission is charged.

**61 Tennessee Antebellum Trail** –1345 Carnton Lane, Franklin, TN 37174. 800-381-1865. This is a 90-mile, self-driving loop tour featuring more than 55 Civil War sites, battlefields, antebellum homes, and plantations. The route traces Gen. John Bell Hood's Nashville campaign from Spring Hill through Franklin, and north to Nashville. Nine historic homes are open to the public along the Trail, each of which played an important role in the campaign. The homes include Belle Meade Plantation, Belmont Mansion, Travellers Rest, Carter House, Carnton Plantation, Rippavilla Plantation, The Athenaeum, Polk Home, and Rattle and Snap. Other significant sites include McGavock Confederate Cemetery, Winstead Hill, and Spring Hill Battlefield. The trail is open daily. The nine historic homes have varying fees and hours but are generally open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm and Sun 1-5pm.

**62 Fort Negley** – Nashville: Intersection of Fort Negley Blvd and Chestnut Street. Fort Negley was the largest inland masonry fortification built during the Civil War. Erected during the Union occupation of Nashville in 1862 (in only four months), the stone fort is 600 feet long and 300 feet wide. Constructed by conscript laborers (predominately slaves and free blacks) Fort Negley became the largest and most important fortification with in the seven-miles of Union defenses around Nashville. The Fort Negley complex is a Nashville City Park and in 2004 was updated with a self-guided walking trail system containing informational plaques and kiosk. Plans for a future development include an interpretive center. Open daily to the public. Admission is free.



*USS Sultana departing Memphis*





## Epilogue

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*“Civil war, such as you have just passed through, naturally engenders feelings of animosity, hatred and revenge. It is our duty to divest ourselves of all such feelings, and, so far as it is in our power to do so, to cultivate feelings toward those with whom we have so long contested...Whatever your responsibilities may be to government, to society, or to individuals, meet them like men.”*

**- Nathan Bedford Forrest,  
farewell address to his men,  
May 9, 1865**

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The devastation of the Civil War in Tennessee was profound. The economic gains of the 1850s were erased, and farm production and property values would not reach their 1860 levels again until 1900. Tennessee never regained its former economic importance or its foremost place in the nation’s councils of power. At war’s end, on the other hand, 275,000 Tennesseans formerly enslaved were no longer anyone’s property.

The human costs of the conflict were considerable. The ‘butcher’s bill’ for battles fought on Tennessee soil came to approximately 66,000 Confederates and 58,000 Federal soldiers killed and

wounded. Many more than these 124,000 died of disease, malnutrition, or other causes. Two of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War (Shiloh and Stone's River) were fought in Tennessee, and a third (Chickamauga) took place just over the state line. In 1870, the state's population of young men had remained static or even declined from prewar levels due to war-related mortality.

For the many Tennesseans in the Army of Tennessee, the phrase "defending your homes" was taken quite literally. Most of Tennessee's Confederate enlistees had the distinction of fighting on home soil to contest the invasion of their state. This may account for the extraordinary tenacity with which this army fought.

Tennessee experienced the nineteenth century version of 'total war,' in the sense that all the resources and people of the state – civilians and soldiers alike – were engaged in or affected by the war. The civilian populace was subjected to military rule by both sides, with its attendant burdens of foraging, loyalty oaths, and stealing. A vicious cycle of bushwhacking and hanging characterized martial law in some areas. Animosities engendered by four years of military occupation and guerilla fighting ensured that Tennessee would go through a long, contentious recovery from the war.

Tennessee's divided character made it a laboratory of political reform after the war. Her strong Unionist faction, which had been nurtured under Federal occupation, proceeded to abolish slavery, ratify the Reconstruction amendments to the Constitution, and return Tennessee to the Union earlier than any other ex-Confederate state. The state also served as an arena of social experimentation. The widespread conversion of Tennessee freedmen into soldiers of the USCT was a key element in dismantling the prewar system

of slavery. The sacrifices of African-American troops legitimized the former slave's claim to a full share in postwar society. These first steps toward emancipation and citizenship, along with the place of honor accorded veterans in their communities, were the most hopeful legacy of the Civil War in Tennessee.



## The Civil War Discovery Trail

Nearly all of the Tennessee sites described in this brochure are also featured in the book entitled, *Civil War Sites, Official Guide to Battlefields, Monuments, and More*, a publication of the Civil War Preservation Trust, with support from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, The Harpers Ferry Historical Association, state agencies and local communities. The Official Guide links more than 600 sites in 32 states to teach the story of the War Between the State and its impact on America. The sites are selected for their historic significance and the educational opportunities that they offer visitors. For more information about the Guide please visit the Civil War Preservation Trusts website at [www.civilwar.org/travelandevents.htm](http://www.civilwar.org/travelandevents.htm). To order the guidebook contact the Harpers Ferry Historical Association at 800-821-5206 or [hfh@intrepid.net](mailto:hfh@intrepid.net).



# CIVIL WAR TIMELINE

## 1861

February 9	Tennessee voters reject secession
June 8	Tennessee secedes from the Union

## 1862

January 19	Battle of Mill Springs
February 6	Battle of Fort Henry
February 12-16	Battle of Fort Donelson
February 23	Confederate evacuation of Nashville
April 6-7	Battle of Shiloh
April 8	Battle of Island Number 10
June 6	Battle of Memphis
October 5	Battle Davis Bridge
December 31	Battle of Parker's Crossroads
Dec. 31- Jan. 3	Battle of Stones River

## 1863

March 4-5	Battle of Thompson's Station
June 23-July 8	Tullahoma Campaign
September 19-20	Battle of Chickamauga
November 24	Battle of Lookout Mountain
November 25	Battle of Missionary Ridge
November 29	Battle of Fort Sanders

## 1864

April 12	Battle of Fort Pillow
November 4	Battle of Johnsonville
November 30	Battle of Franklin
December 15-16	Battle of Nashville

## 1865

April 26	Army of Tennessee surrendered near Greensboro, NC
May 9	Forrest's Cavalry Corps surrenders

## 1866

July 24	Tennessee is readmitted to the Union
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